



# TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

### PROCEDURE FOR SHIPPING IMPORTED FIRE ANT QUARANTINED ARTICLES TO IMPORTED FIRE ANT-FREE AREAS

- Contact the Texas Department of Agriculture prior to shipping Fire Ant Quarantined Articles to ensure compliance with state and federal IFA regulations and USDA approved quarantine treatment requirements.
- Treat shipments, premises and holding/shipping areas for IFA prior to compliance and shipment inspections.
- Recheck shipment [containers, bedding plants, balled & burlapped (B&B) trees, etc.] for IFA by observing ant activity (foraging, nesting, flying, etc.) and by baiting, beating containers or disturbing plant media.
- Ensure interior of truck container are thoroughly cleaned of soil, debris, and check for IFA by inspection and baiting, and treat for IFA, if necessary.
- **Shipments to Arizona:** Ship only to the Arizona Department of Agriculture (AZDA) approved holding areas. A list of AZDA approved holding areas is available at: <https://agriculture.az.gov/approved-holding-areas-o>.
  - a. Each shipment must be certified for freedom from IFA (and Japanese beetle, which has similar pesticide treatment requirements). AZDA may decide to inspect the shipment on arrival.
- **Container grown plants:\*** Use Immersion or Dip Treatment using bifenthrin or chlorpyrifos; Drench Treatment using bifenthrin or chlorpyrifos, or Granular Incorporation of bifenthrin, fipronil or tefluthrin.
- **B&B tree shipments:\*** Use Immersion or Dip Treatment using bifenthrin or chlorpyrifos, or use Drench Treatment using chlorpyrifos.
- **Grass sod shipments:\*** Use liquid bifenthrin or chlorpyrifos or granular fipronil for broadcast field applications

- **Hay shipments:\*\*** Hay or straw in direct contact with soil is not eligible for movement out of the IFA quarantined area. Baled hay that is stacked in IFA free area and is not in direct contact with the ground; baled hay that is stored on asphalt, concrete, tarp, etc.; or baled hay elevated above ground on pallets is eligible for shipment to IFA-free areas if inspected, found free of IFA, and certified by a state or federal inspector. Hay pasture and shipping area should be treated for IFA before baling and storing hay. Hay that contains soil may not leave the IFA quarantined area.
- The Texas Department of Agriculture's Biosecurity and Agriculture Resource Management Program may take other actions as required such as: compliance inspection of nurseries and nursery media residue sampling for confirmation of USDA approved treatment.

---

\*Consult treatment details given in USDA-APHIS Publication (APHIS 81-25-001), "Imported Fire Ant: Quarantine Treatments for Nursery Stock, Grass Sod, and Related Materials."  
[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/fireants/downloads/ifa-nursery-faqs-2013.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/fireants/downloads/ifa-nursery-faqs-2013.pdf),  
[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/fireants/downloads/IFA\\_nursery.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/fireants/downloads/IFA_nursery.pdf)

\*\*Consult Hay and Straw Shipment Information at:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/BaledHayIndustryAlert.pdf>.

TDA Hay Hotline: <http://www.gotexan.org/HayHotlineHome.aspx>.

Hay pasture treatment: [http://fireant.tamu.edu/controlmethods/products/extinguish\\_plus/](http://fireant.tamu.edu/controlmethods/products/extinguish_plus/)  
[http://fireant.tamu.edu/controlmethods/products/amdro\\_pro/](http://fireant.tamu.edu/controlmethods/products/amdro_pro/).

---

## ***TREATMENT AND SHIPPING INFORMATION***

**USDA APPROVED IFA TREATMENT CHEMICALS:** A list of USDA approved treatment pesticides can be found at:

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/fireants/downloads/IFA\\_QuarantineLabels.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/fireants/downloads/IFA_QuarantineLabels.pdf)

All the products at the link above are registered, except the following, which are not registered in Texas:

**Bifenthrin Nursery Granular  
Insecticide**

**Southern Agricultural  
Insecticides, Inc.**

**Registered in FL, GA, NC, TN**

**The followed are substitute pesticides registered in Texas, that can be substituted Bifenthrin Nursery Granular:**

Quali-Pro® Bifenthrin Golf &  
Nursery 7.9F

Quali-Pro Professional T&O  
Products

Containers

## ***USEFUL LINKS***

### **TEXAS IMPORTED FIRE ANT QUARANTINED AREAS:**

<http://www.texasagriculture.gov/RegulatoryPrograms/PlantQuality/PestandDiseaseAlerts/RedImportedFireAntQuarantinedArea.aspx>

### **U.S. IMPORTED FIRE ANT QUARANTINED AREAS**

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/fireants/downloads/fireant.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/fireants/downloads/fireant.pdf)

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/fireants/downloads/fireant-2.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/fireants/downloads/fireant-2.pdf)

### **IMPORTED FIRE ANT PROGRAM MANUAL:**

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/plants/manuals/domestic/downloads/fire\\_ant.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/domestic/downloads/fire_ant.pdf)

## ***IFA REGULATIONS***

### **TEXAS RED IMPORTED FIRE ANT QUARANTINE (4 TAC [SUBCHAPTER J](#)):**

[http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac\\_view=5&ti=4&pt=1&ch=19&sch=J&rl=Y](http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=4&pt=1&ch=19&sch=J&rl=Y)

### **USDA IFA QUARANTINE (7 CFR 301.81-1 to 301.81-11. SUBPART – IMPORTED FIRE ANT):**

<http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/retrieveECFR?gp=&SID=1caaefb850148c046406ddoccd9acb69&n=7y5.1.1.1.2&r=PART&ty=HTML#sp7.5.301.xx15>

### **ARIZONA (R3-4-239. Imported Fire Ants):**

[http://apps.azsos.gov/public\\_services/Title\\_03/3-04.pdf](http://apps.azsos.gov/public_services/Title_03/3-04.pdf)

### **CALIFORNIA (301.81 Imported Fire Ant):**

<http://pi.cdfa.ca.gov/pqm/manual/htm/214.htm>

## ***PROGRAM CONTACTS***

**[Email: PlantQuality@TexasAgriculture.gov](mailto:PlantQuality@TexasAgriculture.gov)**

**Phone: (512) 463-7660**

**Fax: (888) 215-5385**

Dr. Awinash Bhatkar  
Coordinator for Biosecurity and  
Agriculture Resource Management  
(512) 463-5025

Allison Olofson  
Program Specialist  
(512) 463-7884

Texas Department of Agriculture  
Biosecurity and Environmental Resource Management

Dr. Robert Crocker  
Program Specialist  
(512) 463-6332

Elena Mata  
Program Specialist  
(512) 463-2562

Veronica Martinez

Program Specialist  
(512) 463-8779

## **Regional Offices**

### **North Texas Regional Office**

1720 Regal Row, Suite 118  
Dallas, TX 75235  
Phone: (214) 631-0265  
Fax: (888) 205-6335

### **Gulf Coast Regional Office**

5425 Polk Street, G-20  
Houston, TX 77023  
Phone: (713) 921-8200  
Fax: (888) 223-5606

### **West Texas Regional Office**

4502 Englewood Ave.  
Lubbock, TX 79414  
Phone: (806) 799-8555  
Fax: (800) 831-3746

### **South Central Texas Regional Office**

8918 Tesoro Drive, # 120  
San Antonio, TX 78217  
Phone: (210) 820-0288  
Fax: (888) 203-1235

### **Valley Regional Office**

900-B East Expressway 83  
San Juan, TX 78589  
Phone: (956) 787-8866  
Fax: (800) 909-8167